

Message Text

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TRSY/IRS:MR. CHRISTY (PHONE

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TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS STATE 191570

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:OGEN, CASC, SF

SUBJECT: IRS OFFICE IN JOHANNESBURG

REF: PRETORIA 3806

1. APPEARS TO BE NO EASY SOLUTION TO IRS DILEMMA. AS REPORTED IN STATE 183494 IT IS NOT LEGALLY POSSIBLE PROVIDE IRS PERSONNEL WITH CONSULAR TITLES SINCE THEY ARE GENERAL SCHEDULE (GS) EMPLOYEES. NOR CAN THEY BE GIVEN FOREIGN SERVICE APPOINTMENTS SINCE NO AGREEMENT EXISTS BETWEEN STATE AND TREASURY.

2. DEPARTMENT HAD ASSUMED-INCORRECTLY IT SEEMS - THAT SAG UNCLASSIFIED

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WOULD CONSIDER IRS PERSONNEL AS PART OF CONSULATE STAFF

REGARDLESS OF TITLE ISSUE. IN THAT CASE THEY WOULD HAVE HAD SIX MONTHS TO CLEAR HHE AND POV SAME AS OTHER NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO JOHANNESBURG. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER BACKGROUND FROM PRETORIA ON THIS PARTICULAR POINT.

3. POSSIBLE SOLUTION POSED PARA ONE REFTEL IS UNFORTUNATELY NON-WORKABLE. AS A MATTER OF POLICY THE DEPARTMENT NORMALLY GRANTS DIPLOMATIC TITLES ONLY TO PERSONS WHO ARE ASSIGNED TO AND RESIDENT AT THE CAPITAL OF THE COUNTRY OF ASSIGNMENT. THIS POLICY IS BASED ON INTERNATIONAL PRACTICES

AND CONVENTIONS AND IS ALSO CONSONANT WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S PRACTICE IN RECOGNIZING TITLES OF OFFICERS OF OTHER COUNTRIES WHO ARE ASSIGNED TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

4. OTHER THAN LIVING WITH PRESENT SITUATION OR PROTESTING SAG RULING PARA TWO ABOVE ONLY VIABLE ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO LOCATE IRS OFFICE AT PRETORIA AND ACCREDIT HOFFMAN TO EMBASSY. IN THIS REGARD POST SHOULD BE ADVISED THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S PRACTICE WITH IRS HAS BEEN TO RESTRICT FULL DIPLOMATIC STATUS TO THE SUPERVISORY REVENUE SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE AT ANY MISSION. MR. BECKMEYE WOULD THEREFORE BE ASSIGNED AS AN ASSISTANT TO MR. HOFFMAN WITH AN OFFICIAL PASSPORT AND NO DIPLOMATIC TITLE. PRESUME HOWEVER THAT IN SUCH A CASE EMBASSY WOULD NOT HAVE SAME DIFFICULTY OF OBTAINING DUTY FREE ENTRY OF HIS HHE AND POV. BOTH OFFICERS WOULD ALSO HAVE TO RESIDE IN PRETORIA.

5. RE PARA TWO REFTEL IRS WILL PARTICIPATE SAS. OM FOLLOWS TO BURGESS FROM AF/EX. KISSINGER

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